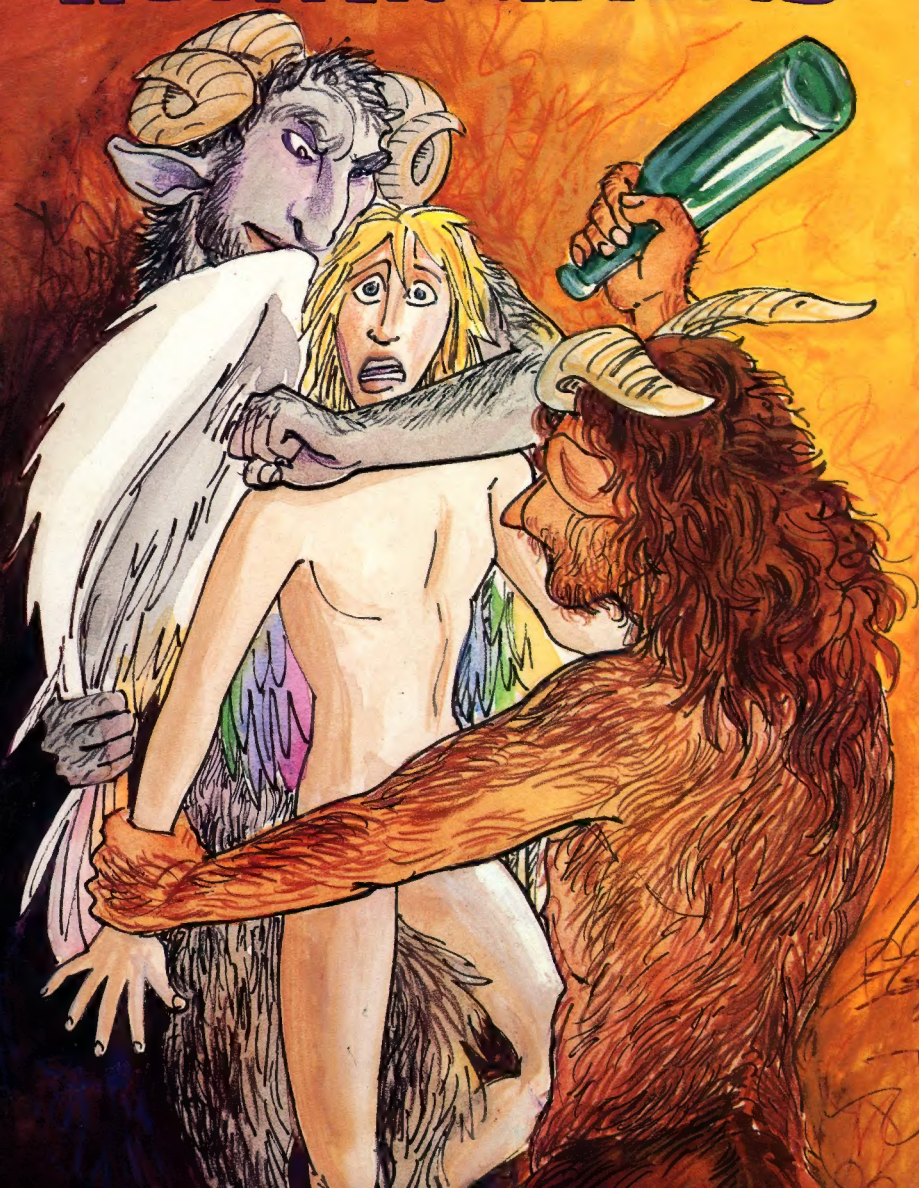


CB

Roberta Gregory's

#3
2.95 US
3.95 CAN.
MATURE
READERS

artistic licentiousness



Well, here it is, everyone! **FINALLY!!!!** Believe me, nobody is happier to see this make its way into print than I am!! Sorry for keeping all of you readers waiting while I spent the last two-and-a-half years churning out several issues of Naughty Bits, was involved in three stage productions, visited Europe six times and worked on countless other projects including several months worth of weekly Bitchy Bitch strips... **AND**, tying up this story. (To be honest, I pretty much finished the art on this in the Summer of 1996, but was so worried about what was going on in the comic industry that I decided to wait a few months to publish this. My apologies!) I don't know **WHAT** I think about this comic anymore. I have been staring at it far too long, and working on it in too piecemeal a fashion, and some of the subject matter that seemed so exciting back in 1992 now seems embarrassingly trite. But, the story is now no longer hanging precariously. I have not let my loyal readers down (I **HOPE!**) and this is **NOT** the last of Denise and Kevin, by any means! I have found in many years of writing (**AND** living) that the more I try to come to a resolution, the more doors are opened and the more possibilities are left to be explored. The many secrets and surprises that I encounter along this strange road I've chosen make the journey a pure joy. (When it isn't being a pure terror, that is!) It's nice to be able to put this story aside (for now) and go on to other things. **NOW**, instead of asking when I'll come out with more Licentiousness, you all can ask me when more Winging It is coming out, okay?

As always, and because I often forget, thanks to everyone who has been supportive over the years with their kind words... and purchasing dollars! (Thanks to the folks at Fantagraphics for a hand in the nitty-gritty!) Now, if you've gotten this far without having read the actual story, you obviously haven't been waiting since 1994 like everyone else for this issue! Is this some sort of record for longest time between issues of a series? Never mind!!! I don't want to know!

For those of you who haven't seen the first two issues of this series, you must be really confused by now! But there's hope for you! I have plenty of copies of #2 available, and unfortunately, not a **WHOLE** lot of #1's left, but I think I can manage a small-press version when those finally run out! (As long as I can find a copy place that doesn't look too closely at what their customers bring in!) So, for now, I'll say that all three issues are available at \$3.50 ppd apiece! **NOTE!** Issues #1 and #2 are **ADULTS ONLY**, so you have to send in a statement that you are over 18 and sign it. Sorry. I don't make up these rules!

And, if by any chance, this is the only comic of mine you have seen, you're in for a big surprise! Go to your friendly comic store and ask about my comix, or send a self-addressed-stamped envelope to me for my catalog! Roberta Gregory, Box 27438, Seattle, WA 98125

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Chapter Fifteen

Go ON, then,
Kevin...
FIGHT!

Like it'll
do you any
GOOD...

Get you
nice an'
TIRED..

WEAK..

Easier for
ME...you'll be
so...YIELDING!

An I got somethin',
for you I KNOW
you want...

No strength
anymore....?
Can't move
your ARMS..?

They're
LIMP...
useless!

But, your
LITTLE GUY
doesn't LIE!

..God is
LOVE,
Kevin...

GUH..

OH... UM... SORRY, KEVIN...
you were kind of hard
to wake up... uh...

oh...
Hi. Neal...

Anyhow, I was just
sayin' goodbye... gotta
go catch a bus! Sounds
like they FOUND my
Portfolio an' bag...

That's...
GREAT! uh...
Glad to
hear it...

Somebody turned 'em in
a few stops down the line.
I left you a few bucks...
I had to do some
calling around...

'Scuse me...

I took some of your
ASPIRINS, too... I've got
a headache that just won't
QUIT! I really got my
HEAD banged against
the sidewalk...

uh huh...

Oh... an' I left a
couple more for a
new TOWEL... I dunno
if that's gonna come
OUT...

You're still...
BLEEDING..?

I'm okay...
I'm FINE!

You're...
SURE you
ought to
go...

I CAN'T miss
that BUS! There
won't be another
'til THREE!

Maybe
you ought
to get...
LOOKED
at... or...
...over...

That's easy for
YOU to say!
I got FOUR
YEARS of art
in that
Portfolio!

You
SAID
someone
turned
it in...

Security people
STEAL stuff! What
if someone looks
INSIDE an' doesn't
LIKE what they SEE?
What if someone
says they're ME...
or... GOD KNOWS...
...choke...

urkhhh...
'Scuse m'...





You're....
SURE
you're okay..

spt: I'll
be FINE..

There's a CLINIC at the
County hospital where
you can probably get
someone to SEE you...

I mean, if you don't have
the MONEY, it won't be a
problem... I'VE been there, an'

You say you
hit your HEAD..

uh
huh..

Yeah, **SURE!** DON'T
Make me miss
the **BUS!**

I'M NOT... I'M NOT
going to any DOCTOR!



Look... some
DOCTOR'S gonna
want to know
how I...

Just tell him
you got **MUGGED**
or somethin'...

You don't **USUALLY** shove
a **BOTTLE** up someone
if you're after their
POCKET MONEY now,
DO YOU?

uh....
... NO...
I guess NOT..

IT'S NOT...
...he's
gonna **KNOW**...

Well, can't you
just tell him
they tried to
ROB you an' you
tried to **FIGHT** 'em..



uh... NEAL... they DO have
some sort of... **GAY**
medical place here...

IF I go pick up your
stuff for you... will you
go to That Place...?

That's awful **NICE** of you,
but I can't ask you to...

I read about it in
one of those free papers
...I got it **SOMEWHERE!**

I **KNOW**
I saw it..

Wait... **DENISE**... the
lady upstairs... SHE'S
a **dyke**... SHE'D know
about it... I got her
number....
... **SOMEWHERE**...

That's what I get for
having to stop writing
just as it was getting
GOOD last night....
:sigh: Feels like I
could sleep for another
three hours at LEAST!



MONDAY MORNING...
Wish I could just STAY
in bed.. stay home and
WRITE... Maybe I could
get a part-time job if
I moved in with Tish!
it... COULD work out...



mmm... I think Telyun and
Namique would make an
AWFULLY cute couple..



uh...



RING!



shit...
WHOD be calling me
at Seven-thirty....?

RING!

okay...
OKAY!



Hello... ?



HUG ME
GOODNITE
SLAM!



uh... I think I'm gonna
have to go UPSTAIRS...
... come on..



KEVIN! Shit!!
Now I'll HAVE to
move in with Tish...



I should've gotten an
answering machine LONG
ago... now he KNOWS
I'm here...



RAP-
RAP-
RAP!



GO AWAY!
LEAVE me ALONE, Kevin!
I'm gonna call the
POLICE!



uhh... Denise... I.. uh....
was just wondering if you
had the phone number
for the... uh... gay clinic...?



Jeezuz... he's CRAZY!
He's gonna say
ANYTHING to get me
to open the door...



KEVIN... this
is STUPID!
...IF YOU make
me MISS
that BUS...

NEAL...
You're in
NO CONDITION
to...



okay....
WHAT'S going
ON, anyhow...?



uh... HI,
Denise...
this is NEAL!
He... uh...

I.. got
beat up
by some
GUYS...

Oh my GOD...
you sure
DID...
c'mon IN...



He got hurt kinda BAD...
...uh... got his HEAD hit
an' he's throwin' up... I
THINK that's--SERIOUS...
...right?

oh Jeez... you
SHOULD get
looked at...

And there's some sort
of GAY clinic you can
go to... RIGHT? Denise...
... YOU know about it...
... right?

oh, yeah...
lemme
look it up...

So you're gonna GO...
YES, Neal...?

okay...

Here's my key...
you gonna BE
here when I get
back tonight?

SURE,
KEVIN...

Can you see he gets to
the right place, Denise?
I got a BUS to catch
to... to...

BARTON...
You got enough
money?

I'll hit
a CASH
machine...

um...M...
THANKS,
KEVIN...

No problem,
Neal... uh...
Hope you'll
be okay...
... uh...

So, uh... how long have you
known Kevin... Neal?

We've written back an'
forth some... I spent a
couple nights with him...

That Gay clinic's mostly
for AIDS an' STD's, but
here's a walk-in clinic
I've been to... it's sliding
scale, an' they'll STILL
see you if you're BROKE...
uh huh...

AND, it's real QUEER-
FRIENDLY... got some
cute DYKES working
there. It's over in
the GAY part of town...

A GAY part
of town?

It's SORT of on my way to
work... but, you'd have to
change buses... I'll bet my
GIRLFRIEND can give you
a ride!

As long as it's not
too MUCH TROUBLE...
...uh... 'scuse me...

Hi. Tish... hope it's not too EARLY... Listen, can you do me a FAVOR? Someone over here needs a ride to the Northend Clinic... NO, it's a Guy.. friend of KEVIN'S... Hey, I think KEVIN'S got a... --Boyfriend... Isn't that a Hoot?



NO... I meant.. uh... you know how you were sort of CONCERNED about... uh... anyway, he's a GAY guy an' he got beat up pretty badly.. I mean, he spent the NIGHT at Kevin's an' Kevin gave him his KEY an' it sorta seemed like... huh?



It's NOT a favor for KEVIN! Kevin doesn't HAVE a car. I think this kid has a bad HEAD INJURY and he REALLY ought to see a-- NO, I'm NOT asking you to be "Kevin's private Taxi Service"....



It's NOT that far out of your way... He's NOT trying to get you to do anything... Kevin's not even HERE... Tish... NO, I'm NOT "taking his side"... FINE! I'M SORRY I BOTHERED YOU!!



Oh.. like I SAID... if it's too much TROUBLE...

No trouble at ALL, Neal... .. want some COFFEE?



Wow... The LAVENDER PAGES! You've got a whole Gay PHONE Book.. there's not ANYTHING like this back home...



Hi. Tish... uh. HUH... look.. it's MONDAY MORNING, and I'm in NO MOOD to put up with any of your BULLSHIT... IF it's too much to ASK. I understand, but... uh huh...



You're SURE... ..okay, see you SOON... .. THANKS!

...uh... don't take TOO long--



It's THAT door, Neal...



Chapter Sixteen

I don't BELIEVE I'm doing this... it's too EARLY to call in WORK. I'll have to do it at one of the stops. I guess I can say I'm sick ...and I just HAPPEN to be at a pay phone in a BUS STATION... I was away for the WEEKEND and someone's CAR broke down and I got STRANDED...



I'll be back at work TOMORROW... shouldn't be any problem... and, if it IS, there'd be WORSE things than having to work someplace ELSE... shit... I gave that guy the KEY to my APARTMENT... I could come back tonight and all my STUFF could be... GONE...



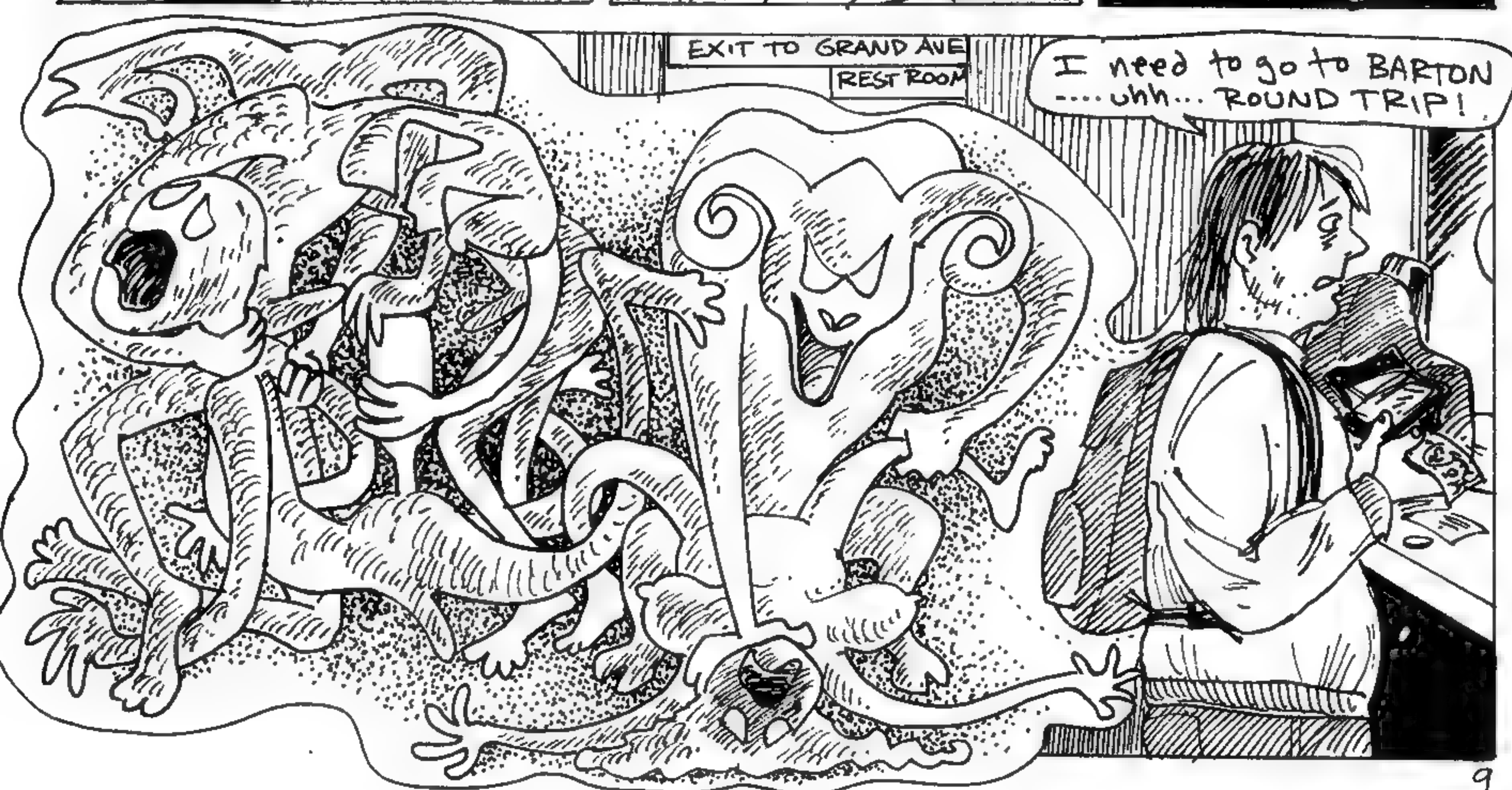
OR, maybe he'll have gone through my ART... my SKETCHBOOKS... I'm actually TRUSTING him with all my STUFF... I barely KNOW this guy! Of course, HE'S trusting ME with HIS stuff... not like he's got too much CHOICE...



Maybe I can just tell him I missed the bus... I AM cutting it pretty CLOSE... All this time, he'll be thinking I got his stuff... if he gets out by THREE, he can pick it up by HIMSELF on his way HOME... Maybe I WILL miss the bus... maybe I shouldn't HURRY too much...



OF COURSE, what if there's REALLY something WRONG with him? I think it's... SERIOUS when you throw up after hitting your head. Don't guys hit their heads and they seem okay and then they DIE the next day? And what if he got hurt BAD... INSIDE... when they... they...



I KNOW, Tish.... I was in a... WEIRD MOOD, too... uh... I gotta GO...

Why don't you come OVER after dinner...



The last thing in the WORLD Kevin needed was for me to....
.... SEDUCE him! All the time, I could've been helping him to come OUT.. All I DID was push him further into the CLOSET!



How could I have been so BLIND... Must've been SOME way I could've seen it... Maybe Tish is right.. I AM too self-centered. Maybe it'll be.. GOOD for me to learn to start thinking of... OTHER people's needs...



But, I'd sure LOVE to finish that story for "Dragonfire" - I came so CLOSE last night. Maybe TONIGHT...? oh, yeah... TISH!



Be nice to go to DAY CON again this year... meet real HUMAN BEINGS who actually READ my stories.. - they want me to be a GUEST! Too bad they won't pay my way..



Maybe this time TISH could come with me... I think she missed me when I went to CON CON back in July...



No... That was BRENDA PAVITZ... She's an ARTIST! TISH! ...
... OF COURSE not! cuz these rooms are EIGHTY BUCKS a NIGHT!
.....okay...
...SORRY..

Does she KNOW what TIME it is...?



What are you THINKING.. if you act... PISSY enough, you'll make me never want to go to another con by MYSELF.. NO

I... MISSED you!

I missed you, too!



But... STILL... it WOULD be nice to have someone to come home TO, .. again...

Hi, Denise.. You'll never GUESS what happened to me today... Want some SALAD?



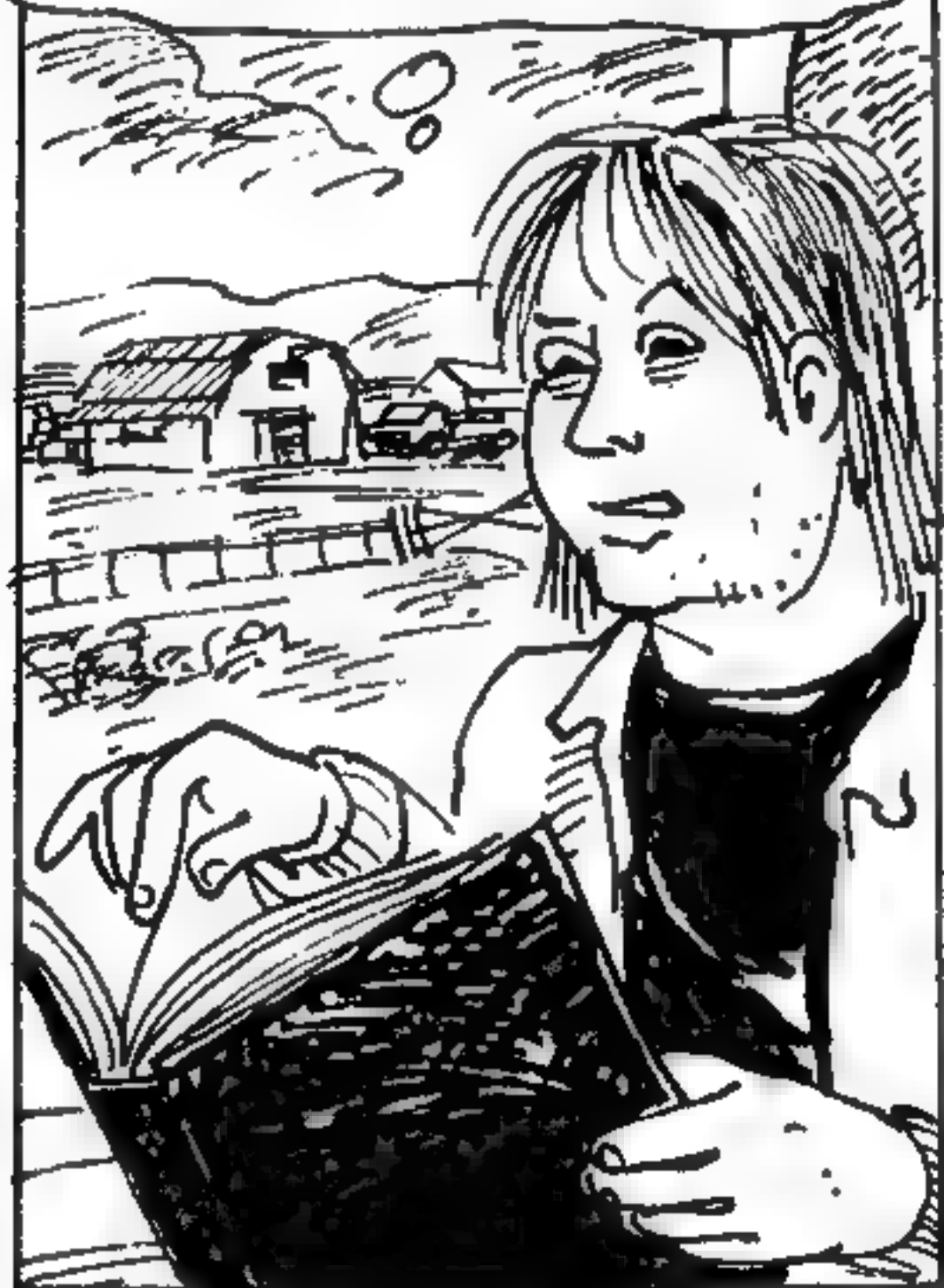
THATS it... and there's
a black duffel bag...
...uh huh...



THIS isn't too bad...
I should be back
in town by SIX-ish...



DAMN, he's good...
...he must've been
BORN drawing...



He must've been born
WRITING, too...



Hope he's gonna be okay...
hope he's not gonna have
any... BRAIN DAMAGE...
Wasn't there some high
school kid who got hit in
the head playing FOOTBALL
...an' they thought he was
okay an' then he DIED...



He couldn't STILL be at
the CLINIC, could he?
What if he had to go
to the HOSPITAL?





oh Jee-zuz! The place is DARK! ... what if...



He's not there.... NOW what?

NEAL...?



THUMP!
Just a minute.
Kevin... gotta find
THUNK!



Here it IS, Neal...

oh my GOD... THANKS Kevin!

uh... so how ARE you-?

oh. I'm okay... I was just trying to sleep...



So... what did they SAY?

They were kind of worried about my HEAD, but they don't think it's too bad... an' I gotta wear THIS on my DRAWING HAND... An' I got somethin' for the PAIN... an' to help me SLEEP..

uh huh uh huh..



I'm supposed to REST... but if I'm okay after 24 hours, it'll be all right to take the bus home. I need to PAY you for your BUS TICKET... an' for the WORK you missed..



Don't worry about any of THAT... uh... why don't you... uh, I'll turn off the light. I'll be in the KITCHEN - I'll try to be QUIET...

No problem... NOW I think I might get some sleep...



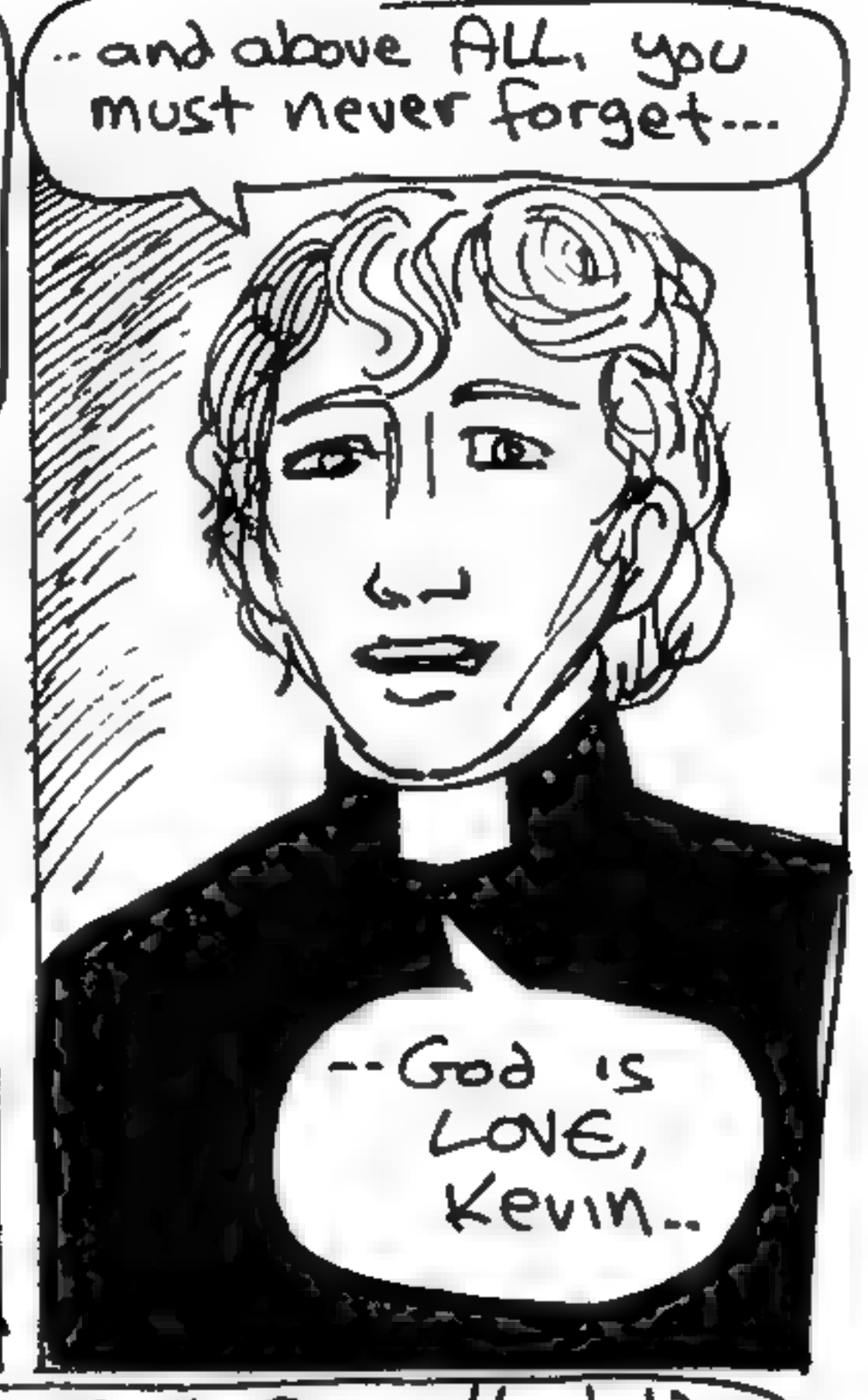
Knock-Knock-



Hi, Kevin...

oh... --Hi...





Something a...
LONG TIME ago..



=gasp=



ohh...
Kevin..



She understands about
this sort of thing...
she's taking me back..



Will you ever
FORGIVE me, Kevin

NO

I'm SORRY, Kevin,
I didn't know...



Denise, why
don't we go up
to your **NO**
Denise, Neal
has to get some
REST, so why..



um...
KEVIN...

RAP
RAP
RAP
RAP



oh, yeah...
TISH!



uh... see you LATER,
Kevin... uh... tell Neal
I hope he feels better!

OKAY.



THAT was fast...

Hope Neals still asleep.. just long enough to let me get to my bedroom... :sigh: ... I can still smell her hair..

Is everything okay? Someone was banging on the Door... and NOW there's a whole lot of YELLING outside...



uh...



uhm.. that sleeping pill's starting to kick in. so if I won't be in your way I'll go back to the sofa and-



I...uh... Couldnt persuade you to-- stay up just a... little longer... ?



oh.. uh-- SURE... I can give you a-- lil' HELP with that--

shit.. hope I'm not gonna have to... KISS him or anything...







CLICK.
SLAM!



Hi, Denise...
um... so... is
everything okay?

...How's TISH?



oh, yeah...
...just
FINE!

She'll
LIVE...



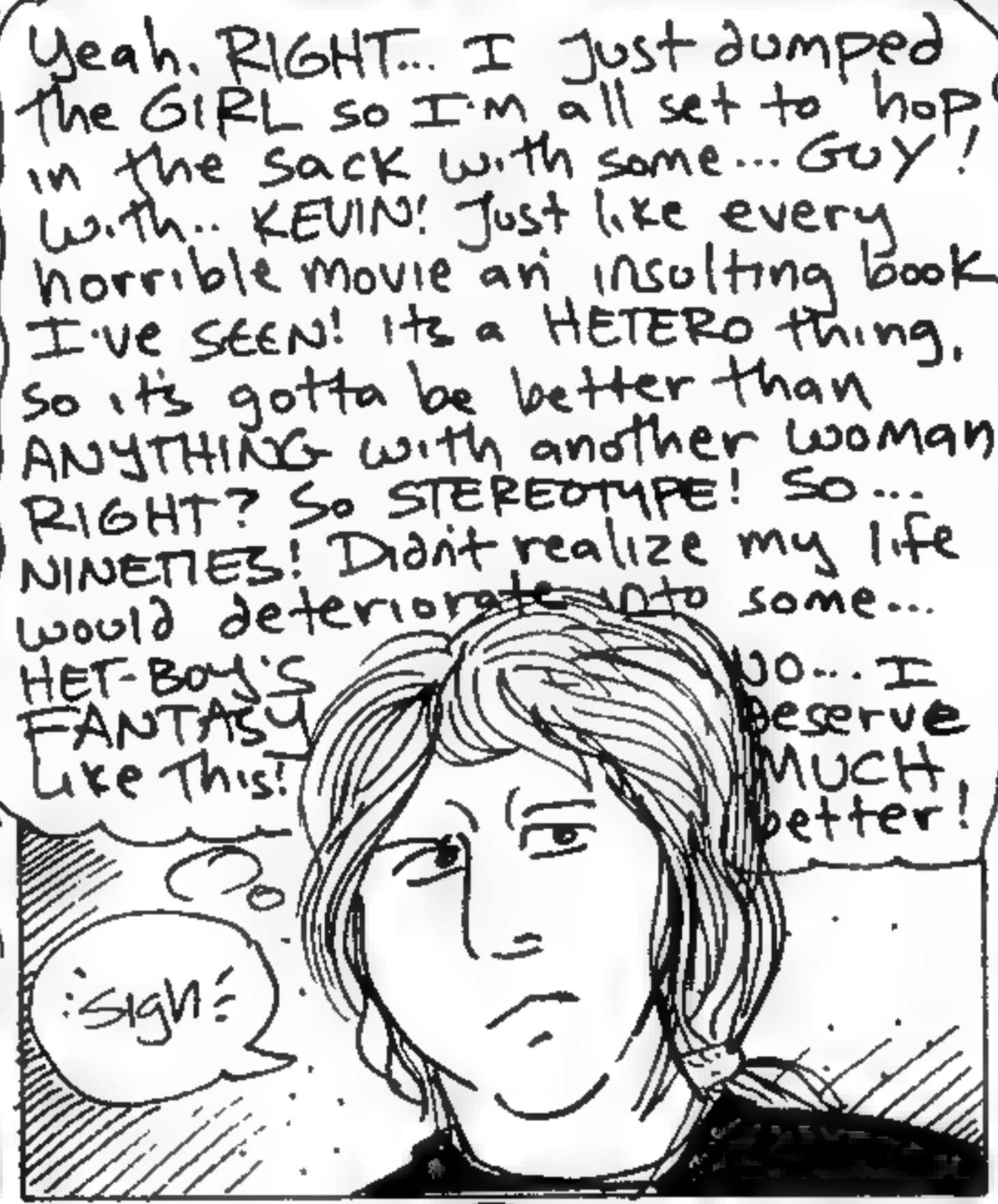
uhm... so... NEAL'S gettin' some
SLEEP... an' I hate to...
DISTURB him... I... uh...
Maybe if I could... I mean,
WE could... uh... go up to
YOUR place... uh...



I want to make
you HAPPY, Denise **NO!**

I wish I could
be what you **NO!**

uh...



Yeah, RIGHT... I just dumped
the GIRL so I'm all set to hop
in the sack with some... GUY!
With... KEVIN! Just like every
horrible movie an' insulting book
I've SEEN! It's a HETERO thing,
so it's gotta be better than
ANYTHING with another woman,
RIGHT? So STEREOTYPE! So...
NINETIES! Did it realize my life
would deteriorate into some...
HET-BOY'S
FANTASY
like this!

No... I
deserve
MUCH
better!

sign



Sorry, Kevin, but I'm
NOT INTERESTED!
I'll see you LATER...
Give my best to
NEAL...



Yeah... all I need is a
goodfuck from some Guy!
The INSTANT the lesbian
lover's out of the way, he
makes his MOVE! What did
I EXPECT? He's a... MAN!





Chapter Seventeen

Thanks for comin' WITH me to the bus station, Kevin..

Well, I.. um.. wondered if you might need a hand carrying this...

I hope in a few months I can save up enough to come BACK here... I didn't get any offers at the CON, but I guess things are kind of bad in the industry right now...

Like they've ever been GOOD?

Well... umm... if you need a place to sleep when you RETURN... uh-hh...

THANKS, Kevin... uh... thanks for everything and... say thanks to Denise. an'... Tish, okay?

Okay... uh... bye... see ya...

Maybe I should've said "place to crash"... a... "sofa to sleep on"...

oh.. uh-hh... Hi, Denise!

Hi..

I just put Neal on his bus to home..

Oh, so.. How IS he?

He's better... an' he said to say "Thanks" to you an' Tish..

Oh.. well, it'll probably BE a while before I can pass that on to Tish..

uh... Like I told Tish, I'm just not in a real good PLACE for a relationship... or ANY-thing complicated right now!

How "COMPLICATED" does it have to GET?

I really need to make my writing a PRIORITY in my life right now... I don't need to keep falling short of someone ELSE'S expectations!

uh-huh...

It's NOT like there's anything WRONG with YOU, Kevin... I LIKE you... I... CARE for you.. but... there's just not anything MORE!

There's something WRONG with you!

mm-hm...

I mean, relationships can be GOOD... they help the...
--RIGHT two people GROW--
--LEARN... fulfill a lot of their POTENTIAL--

uh huh...

FADE

Unless ONE of them is a real self-centered BITCH who's always been a LETDOWN to everybody who gets CLOSE to her...

I think... it's IMPORTANT to have someone in your life who... MEANS something... an' who YOU... mean something to...

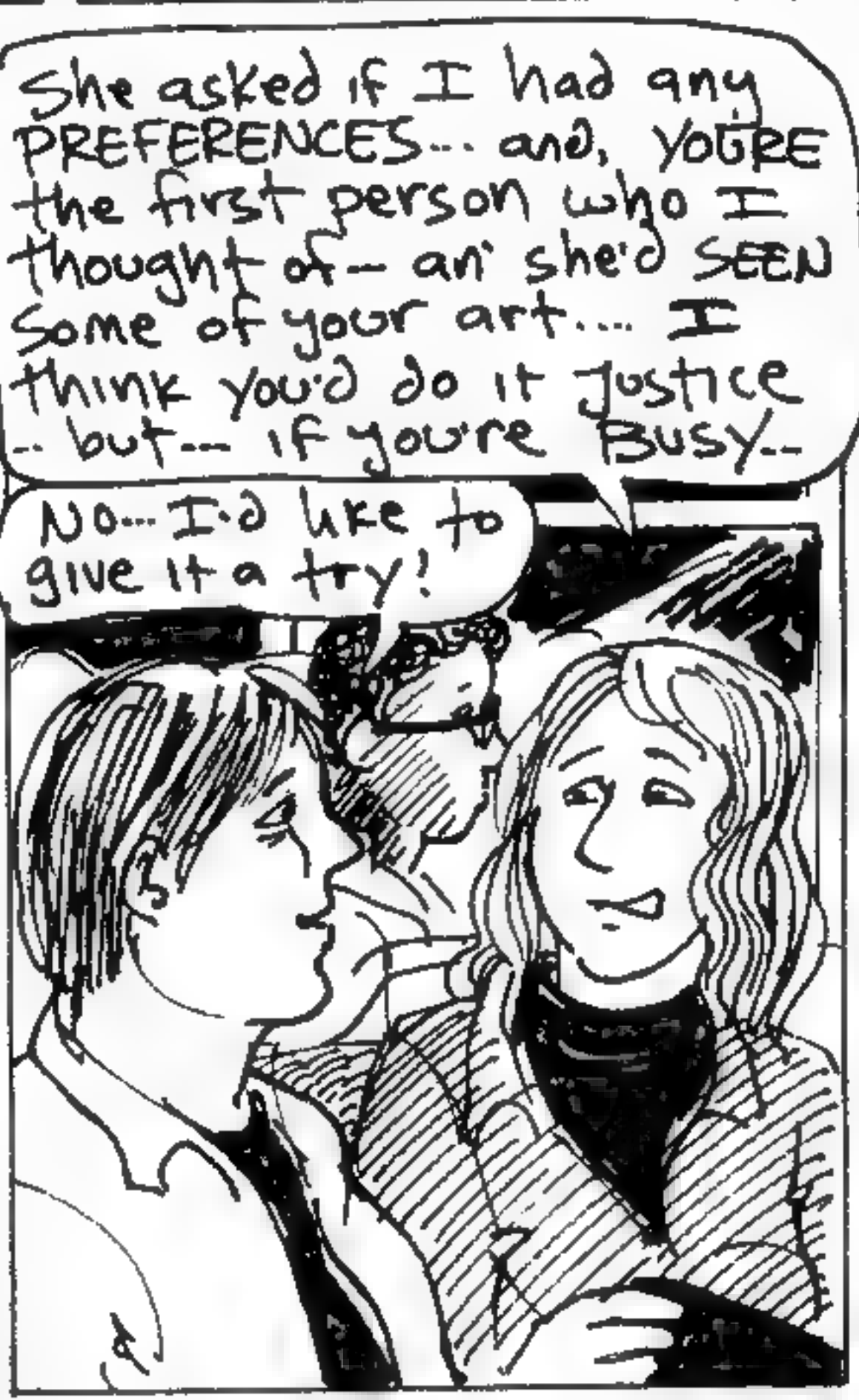
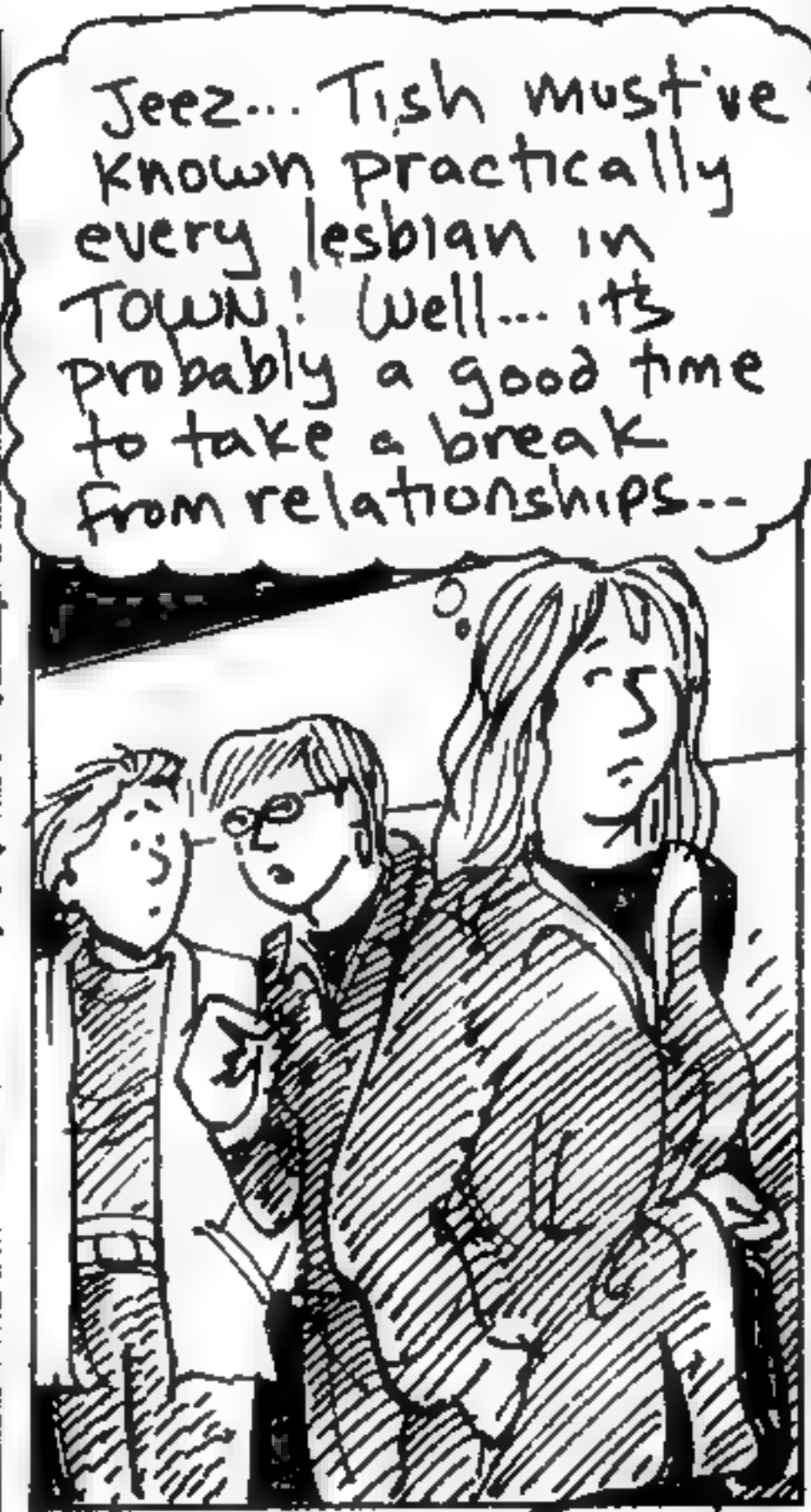
Maybe YOU'LL decide it's all worth it!
see you -

There's something WRONG with you

You'll always have ME, Kevin!

You've never let me down YET, Fillycia...

Chapter Eighteen



I've never worked on a story this long... uh... IF I loaned you the boards, could you take a look at 'em and see if the story's holding TOGETHER?

Sure!

I don't USUALLY show people my work-in-progress... but... I... TRUST your opinion... Denise -

Uh... I'll be down in a minute...

Here it is... I had a few ideas about what might be good places for illustrations... but. maybe you ought to just READ it first...

okay...

I'd sort of pictured the Zandraks dressed in a... "Genteel Barbarian" kind of way... they're MOSTLY human... there's a good description on Page 12... they ride these sort of humpless camels... but more like... uh... You get the idea

I'll start out with somethin' kinda LOOSE...

Here... there's a few places where I haven't decided on the DIALOGUE yet... if you get confused with who's who, I'll help sort it out... uh... the arts kind of... PRIMITIVE right now...

I'll take a look at it...

Sure hope I can do some pictures she'll LIKE! What if she's real DEMANDING about how something's supposed to look, and I spend DAYS trying to second-guess her? She'll probably never speak to me AGAIN!

What if something DOESN'T make sense? How do I suggest he CHANGE something without coming off like a DEMANDING BITCH? He's obviously been sweating AWAY on this... IF I was this far along on something and someone said it didn't work, I'd tell them to STUFF IT.

uh... I'll get BACK to you with some sketches SOON...

And I'll start reading this TONIGHT, Kevin... see you!

This is quite a story...
It's a LOT better than
I THOUGHT it would be...
There's a FEW places where
it's a bit CONFUSING...



But, basically, I think
he's doing just FINE!
And, not only is he
WRITING it, he's ALSO
doing all those PICTURES.



That must be a LOT more
complicated... I think
I feel... MUCH better
about him doing my
illustrations...



I'm back for a
short time... just to
be in a place where
the gifts of others
are CHERISHED... not
MOCKED and DISCARDED.



Where people have
NOT been so harmed
by others that they're
unable to accept a
simple hand offered
in love...



Yes, I STILL have
no partner... no
helpmate in that
place... and I accept
that I may NEVER...
but I'm free for MORE...



Free to bring so much
MORE to these people...
I... TRUST my words
will find their way to
those that need them
the MOST...



And MORE, there are OTHERS in
that place who have so much to GIVE...
GIFTS to a world of broken souls...



There's so MUCH to tell you... so MUCH
I've learned... but...
--maybe AFTER...







A Pyramid scan



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